

A Solemn League and Covenant, for Reformation and Defence of Religion,
The Honour and Happiness of the KING, and the Peace and safety
of the three Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

VENDEMONS, Barons, Knights, Gentlemen, Citizens, Burgesses, Ministers of the Gospel, and Commons of all sorts in the Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, by the providence of God living under one King, and being of one Reformed Religion, having before our eyes the glory of God, and the advancement of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the honour and happiness of the Kings Majesty, and His posterity, and the true publick liberty, safety and peace of the Kingdoms, wherin everyone's private condition is included, and calling to mind the treacherous and bloody plots, conspiracies, attempts, and practices of the enemies of God against the true Religion, and professors therof in all places, especially in these three Kingdoms ever since the Reformation of Religion, and how much their rage, power, and presumption are of late, and at this time increased and exercised, wherof the miserable estate of the Church and Kingdom of Ireland, the distressed estate of the Church and Kingdom of England, and the dangerous estate of the Church and Kingdom of Scotland, are present and publick Testimonies; We have now at last (after other meanes of supplication, remonstrance, protestations, and sufferings) for the preservation of our selves and our religion from utter ruine and destruction, according to the commendable practice of these Kingdoms in former times, and the examples of Gods people in other Nations; after mature deliberation, resolved and determined to enter into a mutual and solemn League and Covenant, wherein we all subscribe, and each one of us for himself, with our hands lifted up to the most High God, doe swear:

- I. That we shall sincerely, really and constantly, through the grace of God, endeavour in our severall places and callings, the preservation of the Reformed Religion in the Church of Scotland, in doctrine, worship, discipline and government, against our common enemies, the Reformation of Religion in the Kingdoms of England and Ireland, in doctrine, worship, discipline and government, according to the word of God, and the example of the best Reformed Churches; And shall endeavour to bring the Churches of God in the three Kingdoms, to the nearest conjunction and uniformity in Religion, Confession of Faith, form of Church-government, Directory for Worship and Catechizing; That we and our posterity after us may as Brethren live in Faith and Love, and the Lord may delight to dwell in the middest of us.
- II. That we shall in like manner, without respect of persons, endeavour the extirpation of Popery, Prelacy, (that is, Church-government, by Arch. Bishops, Bishops, their Chancellours and Commissaries, Deans, Deans and Chapters, Archdeacons, and all other Ecclesiastical Officers depending on that Hierarchy) Superstition, Heresie, Schism, Profaneness, and whatsoever shall be found to be contrary to sound Doctrine, and the power of Godliness; lest we partake in other mens finnes, and thereby be in danger to receive of their plagues, and that the Lord may bee one and his Name one in the three Kingdoms.
- III. We shall with the same sincerity, reality and constancy, in our severall Vocations, endeavour with our estates and lives, mutually to preserve the Rites and Priviledges of the Parliaments, and the Liberties of the Kingdoms, and to preserve and defend the Kings Majesties person and authority, in the preservation and defence of the true Religion, and Liberties of the Kingdoms, that the world may bear witness with our consciences of our Loyaltie, and that we have no thoughts or intentions to diminish His Majesties just power and greatness.
- IV. We shall also with all faithfulness endeavour the discovery of all such as have been, or shall be Incendiaries, Malignants, or evil instruments, by hindering the Reformation of Religion, dividing the King from his people, or one of the Kingdoms from another, or making any Faction, or parties among the people, contrary to this League and Covenant, that they may be brought to publick tryall, and receive condigne punishment, as the degree of their offences shal require or deserve, or the supreme Judicatories of both Kingdoms respectively, or others having power from them for that effect, shall judge convenient.
- V. And whereas the happiness of a blessed Peace between these Kingdoms, denied in former times to our Progenitors, is by the good providence of God granted unto us, and hath been lately concluded, and settled by both the Parliaments, we shall each one of us, according to our place and interest, endeavour that they may remain conjoined in a firm peace and union to all posterity; And that Justice may be done upon the wilfull opposers thereof, in manner expressed in the precedent Articles.
- VI. We shall also according to our places and callings in this common cause of Religion, Liberty, and Peace of the Kingdoms, assist and defend all thole that enter into this League and Covenant, in the maintaining and purifying thereof, and shall not suffer our selves directly or indirectly by whatsoever combination, perswasion, or terror, to be divided and withdrawn from this blessed Union and conjunction, whether to make defection to the contrary party, or to give our selves to a detestable indifferency or neutrality in this cause, which so much concerneth the glory of God, the good of the Kingdoms, and the honour of the King; but shall all the dayes of our lives, zealously and constantly continue therein against all opposition, and promote the same according to our power, against all lawes and impediments whatsoever; and what we are not able our selves to suppress or overcome, we shall revele and known, that it may be timely prevented or removed; All which we shall doe as in the sight of God.

And because these Kingdoms are guilty of many sins, and provocations against God, and his Sonne Jesus Christ, as is too manifest by our yeres distresses and dangers therof, We profess and declare before God and the world, our unfeigned desire to be humbled for our own sinnes, and for the sins of these Kingdoms, especially that we may be delivered from the infallible curse of the Gospel, that we have not laboured for the purity and power thereof, and that we have not endeavoured to revere Christ and his commandments in our lives, which are the cause of other sinnes and transgressions so much abounding amongst us; And our true and unfeigned purpose, desire, and meaning, is to amend our lives, and to be conformed to the Image of Christ, and to be made like unto him, in all his holinesse, and in all his righteousness, by the power of the Holy Ghost, the Searcher of all hearts, with a true intentioun to performe the same, as we shall answer at that great Day, when the King of Righteousness shall appear before us, to judge the world in righteousness; And we beseeche the Lord to strengthen us by his Holy Spirit for this end, and to blesse our desires and proceeding with success, as wee have a desire to be a blessing to other Christian Churches growing under, or in danger of the yoke of Antichristian tyranny, to joyn in the cause of the Reformation and Re-establishment of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, and the peace and tranquillity of Christian Kingdoms and Common-wealths.

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